

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01620 211348Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EUR-12 DHA-02 IO-13 /084 W  
-----016680 211349Z /43

R 211051Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0264  
INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV RH  
SUBJECT: UANC REPRESENTATIVE'S COMMENTS ON RHODESIAN ELECTIONS

1. CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE OF UANC IN BOTSWANA, SAMUEL KANHANDA, VISITED EMBASSY JULY 19 FOR DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS CONCERNING RHODESIAN POLITICAL SITUATION, PARTICULARLY IAN SMITH'S DECISION TO DISSOLVE RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT AND HOLD NEW ELECTIONS AUGUST 31. KANHANDA EXPRESSED OPINION THAT, IF SMITH'S OPPONENTS WIN THE ELECTION, RHODESIA WILL PROBABLY BECOME MORE CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH SOUTH AFRICA. ACCORDING TO KANHANDA, SMITH'S OPPONENTS INTEND OFFICIALLY TO EMBRACE APARTHEID AND FOLLOW THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRIBAL LANDS POLICY IN AN EFFORT TO DIVIDE AND WEAKEN ZIMBABWE'S BLACKS.

2. KANHANDA PREDICTED THAT A VICTORY BY SMITH'S OPPONENTS WOULD ALSO HAVE VERY SERIOUS ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR US/UK EFFORTS TO FACILITATE RHODESIA SETTLEMENT. IF SMITH WERE NOW ELIMINATED FROM THE RHODESIAN SCENE ONLY TB BE REPLACED BY HIS MORE RIGHT-WING OPPONENTS, KANHANDA PRE-  
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LECTED THAT ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE EFFORTS MIGHT BE SET  
BACK FIVE YEARS.

3. COMMENT: SOME OF KANHANDA'S PREDICTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN OVER-STATED IN AN EFFORT TO IMPRESS US WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA. NEVERTHELESS, OTHER RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS ALMOST CERTAINLY

SHARE HIS VIEW THAT, AS BAD AS SMITH IS, A VICTORY BY HIS OPPONENTS WOULD BE WORSE. KANHANDA'S PREDICTIONS WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, BE REALIZED IF SMITH SHOULD EMERGE FROM THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN WITH A VICTORY OVER HIS OPPONENTS WHICH COULD ULTIMATELY PROVIDE HIM WITH A STRONGER MANDATE FROM RHODESIA'S WHITES TO NEGOTIATE A SOLUTION. HOWEVER, THE PUBLIC CONDEMNATIONS OF SMITH'S ELECTORAL INITIATIVE BY NATIONALIST LEADERS, AS WELL AS KANHANDA'S PRIVATE COMMENTS TO EMBOFFS, INDICATE TO US THAT PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE STALLED PENDING THE OUTCOME OF SMITH'S ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. END COMMENT.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSIES PRETORIA AND LUSAKA CONCERNING SMITH'S PROSPECTS GOING INTO THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.  
NORLAND

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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